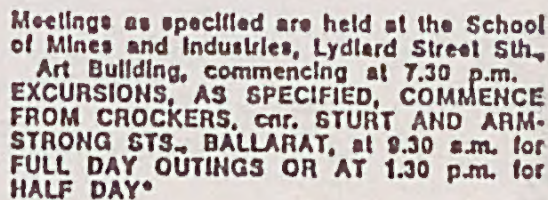


1992

Incorporated

Beaufort area - Mr I Tiley





Field Reports: May Meeting

- Greg Binns Flock of 30 Little Ravens in Ballarat. They were calling loudly from a tree, would fly out then return to perch.
- Del McDonnell At Victoria Mill (Mt Cole) Whites Thrush, female Pink Robin. Also the three local macropods: Grey Kangaroo, Red-necked Wallaby and Swamp Wallaby.
- Lyndsay Fink Copperhead snake in garden at Meredith.
- Ken Hammond Flock of 26 Galahs flying north along Gillies Street. First siting of Willy Wagtail in neighbour park at Wendouree.
-

Next Meeting Committee.

On June 25 at 8pm No 1 John St. Wendouree at the Home of John Gregurke.

Answers to Quick Quiz:-

1. Bats 2. Whale Sharks 3. Most of them spend winter as eggs or pupae 4. 30,000 Kms.
5. Cheetahs (112Km. per hour) 6. Short tailed Shearwaters 7 Herbs are non woody plants, spices are harvested from trees 8 Because they release nitrogen into the soil.



Bird List from Durham Lead Forest

Only a few birds were seen during the excursion on May 3rd.

Yellow Robin	Scarlet Robin
White-eared Honeyeater	Crimson Rosella
White-throated Treecreeper	Golden Whistler
Grey Thrush	Grey Currawong
Welcome Swallow	Brown Falcon

WVFNCA AUGUST CAMPOUT

Date:	22-23rd August 1992
Host:	Bendigo FNC
Venue:	Koolamurt Scout Camp
Cost	\$6.00 per head per night \$5.00 per head for barbecue
Catering:	Friday night - light supper provided Saturday night - supper provided Sunday lunch - barbecue

The camp is designed for self catering with a large Kitchen equipped with cooking facilities, crockery and cutlery.

Accommodation: The camp is comfortable and well equipped. It is situated on the edge of the forest at the outskirts of Bendigo. Bunk style accommodation is provided. Mattresses only are supplied. There are no pillows or bedding.

Bendigo Club would like to know the numbers requiring camp accommodation. Please let Ballarat secretary know as soon as possible.

Phylum Arthropoda;-- Spiders Class Arachnida;

One of the most important differences is that the three classes which contains the Crab, Insects and centipedes, all have a pair of jaws for crushing and tearing food. The Arachnida have no true jaws and have to suck up liquid food.

A second difference is that the Arachnida have no antennae or feelers. These organs are conspicuous in most of the other classes of arthropods.

In the Arachnida the body consists of two main regions, the prosoma or "forepart" and the abdomen or "hindpart" where in most of the others there are three regions: head, thorax, and abdomen.

Only Arachnida have those strange limbs, the chelicerae, attached to the front of the head, these are used to catch and kill their prey.

There are nine orders of living Arachnida they are Spiders Araneida*, Scorpions Scorpionida, False Scorpions Pseudoscorpionida, Mites and Ticks

Acarina, Harvestmen Phalangida, Sea Spiders (not true spiders) Pycnogonida, King Crabs (not true crabs) Xiphosura, Sun Spiders (not true spiders)

No common name Palpigrada. We are only concerned with spiders.

The first fossils found are about 300,000,000 years old and they are much the same as they are today they are a very successful group.

They have two body parts, eight legs, eight eyes, fangs, palps and spinnerets.

There are two suborders 1 Mygalomorpha, fangs which point backwards and 2 Araneomorpha fangs that point sideways, in both the venom flows through fine tubes that open near the points.

Mouse Spiders (Mygalomorpha are one of the most widespread of our spiders, probably because they will drift on a whisp of web when small.

They are one of our dangerous spiders.

others in this group are the Sydney Funnel Web (the mos dangerous), the common Trapdoor spider is the common large black Atrax Genus found in gardens and with silken tubes under logs etc.

*Note the order Araneida takes its name from the maiden Arachne, whose Latin name is Aranea

Other spiders ambush their prey they are well camouflaged and are hard to detect these small spiders are called crab spiders because of the leg arrangement

Another group that relies on stealth and camouflage are found under bark on trees and in house walls often appearing at night, these spiders are called huntsmen and are quite a large spider. They are not considered to be dangerous, however, they will bite and some people are allergic to them. Some have very flattened bodies with eyebrows, another genus is orange coloured and occasionally are green. These spiders are often noted by their empty external skeleton which is shed as they grow.

Wolf spiders are a large well camouflaged spider that seek out their prey, they have very good eye sight and can be seen at night by their reflection. These spiders also live in other countries.

The whitetailed spider is one that preys on other spiders, particularly the black house spider.

Their bite is dangerous to some people and should be avoided if found.

Jumping spiders are common in houses and capture their prey by jumping on it, they are a great judge of distance.

Orb weavers are among our very beautiful spinners and perfect orbs often seen with dew on them are a delight, there are a number of spiders that build the wheel webs.

Another group of spiders build lattice webs the most notable of these is the Redbacked spider the second most venomous of our spiders, it likes to hide in dark places under chairs and under stones logs and a variety of habitats, note some of these spiders have plain bodies not always with the familiar red patch, these spiders are not aggressive and most bites occur through licking them up or sitting or kneeling on them.

Robert and Allan were thanked for their interesting slides and talk also for the specimens on display.

L.F.

WANTED:-

Plants for stall at F.N.Club meetings other items such as Jam etc will also be welcomed.

In the near future we will be holding a Garage sale plants potted on will be welcomed as well as other saleable items.

Quick Quiz:-

1. What is the only mammal capable of true flight?
2. What is the largest fish called?
3. What do Butterflies do in winter?
4. Some birds have long migration flights, the Arctic Tern has the longest and is said to enjoy more hours of daylight in a year than any other creature, how long is their migratory flight?
5. Which animal runs the fastest?
6. What are Mutton birds?
7. Some plants are referred to as Herbs and others as Spices, what is the difference between them?
8. Why are Legumes such an important plant?



Lyrebird (*Menura superba*).

Photo: G. Lewis

For the May excursion, members travelled to an area of uncommitted bushland to the east of Durham Lead. This lightly forested block consists mainly of Peppermint and Stringybark eucalypt trees but with a variety of gum barked species along the watercourses.

During the afternoon's walk, the prostrate plant known as Cranberry Heath (*Astroloma humifusum*) was found with its bright red narrowly tubular flowers tucked in amongst the heath like leaves. Close by, another member of the Epacridaceae family, Prickly Broom Heath (*Monotoca scoparia*) was flowering nicely with masses of small white flowers. Yet a third member of this family seen during the afternoon was the Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*). It is a slender erect shrub with small sharply pointed leaves and axillary bell-shaped flowers that vary in colour from red, deep pink, pale pink to white. The pink flowered form of this plant is the floral emblem of Victoria.

Another plant to interest members was the prostrate Trailing Shaggy Pea (*Oxylobium procumbens*), with bright green ovate leaves. It is thought that these plants would be the most southerly and westerly specimens growing in the Ballarat region and very likely in Victoria as well.

During the afternoon, a great deal of time was spent trying to identify the various eucalypt species growing in the area. Some were relatively easy to distinguish but others were quite confusing. Most problems arose with the Swamp Gum group which were mostly to be found on low lying and waterlogged sites. The Scentbark (*Eucalyptus aromaphloia*) was quite common and members took much time comparing the different scents of the various eucalypt barks.

Many thanks to Greg Binns for leading a most enjoyable outing.

PJM.

Native Australian Mammals.

Subclass Prototheria order Monotremata Platypus and Echidna.

Family Ornithorhynchidae :- The Platypus the name littorally means flatfoot, arguably the most uniquely Australian mammal if not the most improbable, the general appearance is so well known that it needs no description, however, few people are priveleged to see them close at hand except in zoos. It is frequently seen at evening and then only the tip of it's bill and tail is seen.

They are distributed throughout Eastern Australia from the high altitudes and winter snows of Tasmania and the Australian Alps, they feed on a variety of adult laval invertebrates and small vertebrates, mating takes place August to September two soft shelled eggs are laid, they hatch between one and two weeks and the young are fed on milk for up to five months.

They are quite common in suitable stretches of clear fresh water, however, they are vulnerable in their habitat through destruction of their habitat or fouling the water. They are found in most large waters around Ballarat. The males have a spur which can inject poison into unwary handlers.

Family Tachyglossidae :- There are two living genera in this family each represented by a single species. One is found in the highlands of Papua-New Guinea, the other is found all over Australia the lowlands of New Guinea and some islands. The Short nosed Echidna eats ants and other colonial insects, the long beaked Echidna found in New Guinea only forages in leaf litter for worms and other invertebrates. They are solitary animals seeking shelter in hollow logs, thick bushes and other debris. The mating season is July and August. A single soft shelled egg is laid directly into the pouch after hatching the young is fed milk from twin ducts for three months the next seven to eight months is unknown, the young are first seen around September.

Echidnas are common around Ballarat even in the outskirts of the town areas. They appear to have no enemies although young may be taken by goanas.

Elfin.